

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 669**

Introduced by Coash, 27; Campbell, 25; Pankonin, 2.

Read first time January 21, 2009

Committee: Judiciary

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to courts; to amend sections 24-301.02, 24-503,  
2 and 43-2,119, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to  
3 change the number of district court, county court, and  
4 separate juvenile court judges; to provide an operative  
5 date; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an  
6 emergency.  
7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 24-301.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3           24-301.02 The State of Nebraska shall be divided into the  
4 following twelve district court judicial districts:

5           District No. 1 shall contain the counties of Clay,  
6 Nuckolls, Saline, Jefferson, Gage, Thayer, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha,  
7 Fillmore, and Richardson;

8           District No. 2 shall contain the counties of Sarpy, Cass,  
9 and Otoe;

10          District No. 3 shall contain the county of Lancaster;

11          District No. 4 shall contain the county of Douglas;

12          District No. 5 shall contain the counties of Merrick,  
13 Platte, Colfax, Boone, Nance, Hamilton, Polk, York, Butler, Seward,  
14 and Saunders;

15          District No. 6 shall contain the counties of Dixon,  
16 Dakota, Cedar, Burt, Thurston, Dodge, and Washington;

17          District No. 7 shall contain the counties of Knox,  
18 Cuming, Antelope, Pierce, Wayne, Madison, and Stanton;

19          District No. 8 shall contain the counties of Cherry,  
20 Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Blaine, Loup, Custer, Boyd, Holt, Garfield,  
21 Wheeler, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, and Howard;

22          District No. 9 shall contain the counties of Buffalo and  
23 Hall;

24          District No. 10 shall contain the counties of Adams,  
25 Phelps, Kearney, Harlan, Franklin, and Webster;

1           District No. 11 shall contain the counties of Hooker,  
2 Thomas, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Keith, Perkins, Lincoln, Dawson,  
3 Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Gosper, Dundy, Hitchcock, Red Willow, and  
4 Furnas; and

5           District No. 12 shall contain the counties of Sioux,  
6 Dawes, Box Butte, Sheridan, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner,  
7 Kimball, Cheyenne, Grant, and Deuel.

8           In the fourth district there shall be sixteen judges of  
9 the district court. In the third district there shall be ~~seven~~  
10 eight judges of the district court. In the second district there  
11 shall be five judges of the district court. In the ~~second~~, fifth,  
12 ninth, eleventh, and twelfth districts there shall be four judges  
13 of the district court. In the first and sixth districts there shall  
14 be three judges of the district court. In the seventh, eighth, and  
15 tenth districts there shall be two judges of the district court.

16           Sec. 2. Section 24-503, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
17 Nebraska, is amended to read:

18           24-503 For the purpose of serving the county courts in  
19 each county, twelve county judge districts are hereby created:

20           District No. 1 shall contain the counties of Saline,  
21 Jefferson, Gage, Thayer, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha, and Richardson;

22           District No. 2 shall contain the counties of Sarpy, Cass,  
23 and Otoe;

24           District No. 3 shall contain the county of Lancaster;

25           District No. 4 shall contain the county of Douglas;

1           District No. 5 shall contain the counties of Merrick,  
2 Platte, Colfax, Boone, Nance, Hamilton, Polk, York, Butler, Seward,  
3 and Saunders;

4           District No. 6 shall contain the counties of Dixon,  
5 Dakota, Cedar, Burt, Thurston, Dodge, and Washington;

6           District No. 7 shall contain the counties of Knox,  
7 Cuming, Antelope, Pierce, Wayne, Madison, and Stanton;

8           District No. 8 shall contain the counties of Cherry,  
9 Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Blaine, Loup, Custer, Boyd, Holt, Garfield,  
10 Wheeler, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, and Howard;

11          District No. 9 shall contain the counties of Buffalo and  
12 Hall;

13          District No. 10 shall contain the counties of Fillmore,  
14 Adams, Clay, Phelps, Kearney, Harlan, Franklin, Webster, and  
15 Nuckolls;

16          District No. 11 shall contain the counties of Hooker,  
17 Thomas, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Keith, Perkins, Lincoln, Dawson,  
18 Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Gosper, Dundy, Hitchcock, Red Willow, and  
19 Furnas; and

20          District No. 12 shall contain the counties of Sioux,  
21 Dawes, Box Butte, Sheridan, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner,  
22 Kimball, Cheyenne, Grant, and Deuel.

23          District 4 shall have twelve county judges. District 3  
24 shall have seven county judges. Districts 3 and District 5 shall  
25 have six county judges. Districts 2, 11, and 12 shall have five

1 county judges. Districts ~~2, 6~~ and 9 shall have four county judges.  
2 Districts 1, 7, 8, and 10 shall have three county judges.

3 Judge of the county court shall include any person  
4 appointed to the office of county judge or municipal judge prior  
5 to July 1, 1985, pursuant to Article V, section 21, of the  
6 Constitution of Nebraska.

7 Any person serving as a municipal judge in district 3 or  
8 4 immediately prior to July 1, 1985, shall be a judge of the county  
9 court and shall be empowered to hear only those cases as provided  
10 in section 24-517 which the presiding judge of the county court  
11 for such district, with the concurrence of the Supreme Court, shall  
12 direct.

13 Sec. 3. Section 43-2,119, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
14 Nebraska, is amended to read:

15 43-2,119 (1) The number of judges of the separate  
16 juvenile court in counties which have established a separate  
17 juvenile court shall be:

18 (a) Two judges in counties having seventy-five thousand  
19 inhabitants but less than two hundred thousand inhabitants;

20 (b) Four judges in counties having at least two  
21 hundred thousand inhabitants but less than four hundred thousand  
22 inhabitants; and

23 (c) ~~Five~~ Six judges in counties having four hundred  
24 thousand inhabitants or more.

25 (2) The senior judge in point of service as a juvenile

1 court judge shall be the presiding judge. The judges shall rotate  
2 the office of presiding judge every three years unless the judges  
3 agree to another system.

4           Sec. 4. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2009.

5           Sec. 5. Original sections 24-301.02, 24-503, and  
6 43-2,119, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

7           Sec. 6. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect  
8 when passed and approved according to law.